

REMARKS/ARGUMENT

Claims 1-21 were examined in the Final Office Action of October 6, 2009. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 3 and 14 have been cancelled. No new matter has been added by these amendments. Therefore, claims 1, 2, 4-13 and 15-21 are present for examination. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended.

Claims 1-7, 10-14 and 17-19 were rejected under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Battigelli et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,601,628) in view of Erskine (U.S. Patent No. 6,074,967), Bernard et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,554,324), and Vignesoult et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,284,684) with evidence from Trabbold et al. (WO 02/070417). Applicant incorporates each of the prior remarks with respect to this rejection. Independent claim 1 has been amended to further include the limitations of claims 3 and 14. Accordingly, claims 3 and 14 have been cancelled. Applicant asserts that the combination of the references does not fairly teach or disclose the amended claim 1. Therefore, this rejection under §103 should be withdrawn.

Claims 8 and 20 were rejected under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Battigelli et al. in view of Erskine, Bernard et al., and Vignesoult et al. with evidence from Trabbold et al. as applied to claims 1 and 7 above, and further in view of Syme et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,900,298). Applicant hereby incorporates each of its prior arguments with respect to this rejection. Syme et al fails to cure the deficiencies in the other references. Therefore, this rejection under §103 should also be withdrawn.

Claims 9, 15 and 21 were rejected under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Battigelli et al., in view of Erskine and Bernard et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Bihiy et al. (DE 3612857). Applicant also hereby incorporates each of its prior arguments with respect to the allowability of claim 9, 15, and 21. Claims 9 and 15 depend from claim 1. Claim 21 should be considered allowable based upon Applicant's prior arguments. Bihiy et al fails to cure the deficiencies in the other references. Therefore, this rejection under §103 should also be withdrawn.

Based upon the foregoing, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: February 3, 2010